

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 /091 W
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R 060945Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3469
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USAFE RAMSTEIN
USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 583

MIL ADDEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB GW
SUBJ: RESUMPTION OF WAGE TALKS IN NRW METAL FABRICATING

REF: A. BONN 5971 B. DUSSELDORF 449

1. FOLLOWING A REQUEST OF THE METAL WORKERS UNION WAGE TALKS IN THE NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIAN (NRW) METAL FABRICATING INDUSTRY (SEE ALSO REF B) ARE TO BE RESUMED ON APRIL 6, 1978. THE UNION REQUEST WAS SUBMITTED AFTER THE COMPROMISE IN THE NORTH BADEN/WUERTEMBERG METAL FABRICATING INDUSTRIES (REF A).

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2. THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS IS HIGHLY UNCERTAIN BECAUSE BOTH THE EMPLOYERS AND THE UNION EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE ABOVE COMPROMISE, ESTIMATED AT A TOTAL BOOST OF 5.3 PERCENT, COULD NOT SERVE AS A MODEL FOR NRW. WHILE THE METAL WORKERS UNION DID NOT ELABORATE THIS POINT, THE EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT A SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE

BELOW FIVE PERCENT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IN NRW IS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN ELSEWHERE (IN MARCH 1978 FEDERAL AVERAGE 4.9 PERCENT, NRW 5.3 PERCENT). THE EMPLOYERS DO NOT RULE OUT A STRIKE IN NRW.

3. AT THE END OF MARCH 1978 ABOUT 12,000 EMPLOYEES IN NRW WERE INDIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE STRIKE AND LOCK-OUTS IN SOUTH-WEST GERMANY. IN THE BEGINNING OF APRIL THE FORD PLANT IN COLOGNE HAD TO STOP THE FINAL ASSEMBLY LINES AFFECTING 11,200 OUT OF 34,000 EMPLOYEES BECAUSE OF INTERRUPTED SPARE PART SUPPLIES FROM SOUTH-WEST GERMANY. ALTHOGETHER ONE WEEK OF SUCH STOPPAGES ARE ENVISAGED AGAINST THE PROTEST OF THE WORKS COUNCIL WHICH BELIEVES THAT WORK COULD BE SPREAD OUT WITHOUT STOPPAGES. ALL WORKERS AFFECTED IN NRW ARE ENTITLED TO A SHORT-WORK COMPENSATION OF 68 PERCENT OF NET WAGES FOR THE TIME LOST.DUX

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